Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 04390 201957Z

70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

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R 201807Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2854

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

CONFIDENTIAL CARACAS 4390

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR PN VE

SUBJ: AMPHICTYONIC CONGRESS REF: A CARACAS 3663, B PANAMA 2349

- 1. FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR SALOM TOLD ME APR 13 THAT, CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS, NO PLANS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR A LIMITED CHIEFS-OF-STATE MEETING ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE AMPHICTYONIC CONGRESS. ESCOVAR SAID THAT THE GOV AND OTHER GOVTS WOULD SEND SPECIAL DELEGATIONS, BUT THAT THESE WOULD NOT BE HEADED BY EITHER CHIEFS OF STATE OR FOREIGN MINISTERS.
- 2. WITH RESPECT TO THE ABORTIVE SUMMIT MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENTS, THE MINISTER NOTED THAT IT HAD FOUNDERED ON "LATIN AMERICAN REALITY." HE SAID HE HAD TOLD PRESIDENT PEREZ THAT SUCH AN EVENT WOULD REQUIRE "FIVE YEARS" OF CAREFUL PREPARATION. ONE OF THE REALITIES ESCOVAR MENTIONED WAS PINOCHET'S REFUSAL TO SIT DOWN AT THE SAME TABLE WITH CASTRO. I ASKED IF CASTRO HAD BEEN PREPARED TO SIT DOWN WITH PINOCHE. ESCOVAR SAID PERHAPS NOT, BUT THAT FIDEL HAD BEEN QUITE FLEXIBLE, EVEN TO THE POINT OF CONSIDERING SENDING DORTICOS IN HIS STEAD IF THAT WOULD HAVE HELPED.

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PAGE 02 CARACA 04390 201957Z

3. COMMENT: IT IS ENTIRELY CONCEIVABLE THAT PEREZ HAS TALKED

WITH SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A TRUNCATED PRESIDENTS' MEETING AND SIMPLY NOT TOLD ESCOVAR. IN ANY CASE, THE FAILURE TO HOLD THE LARGER AFFAIR IS A SETBACK TO GOV FOREIGN POLICY. THE ENERGETIC EFFORTS OF PEREZ OVER THESE LAST TWO YEARS TO PROMOTE A NEW ERA OF LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY SEEM INCREASINGLY TO BE RUNNING INTO THAT REALITY ESCOVAR HAS IDENTIFIED. SHLAUDEMAN

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS

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